



Diversity of Families

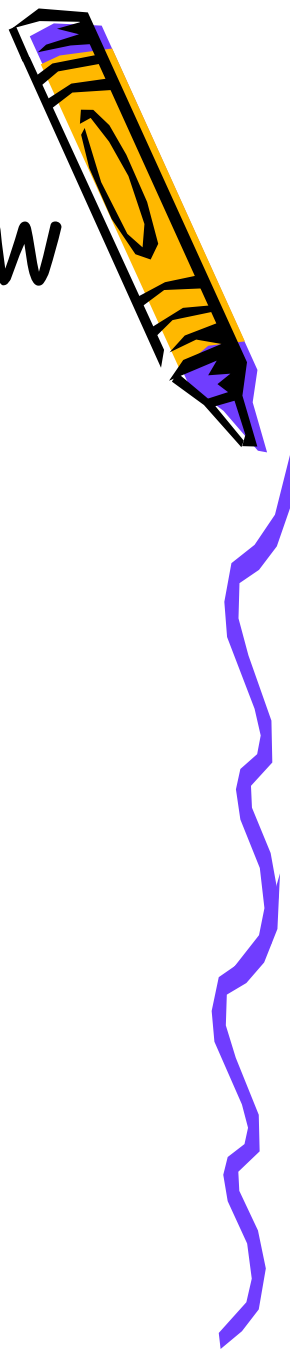
CFS 3600

Dr. Kristen Pennycuff Trent

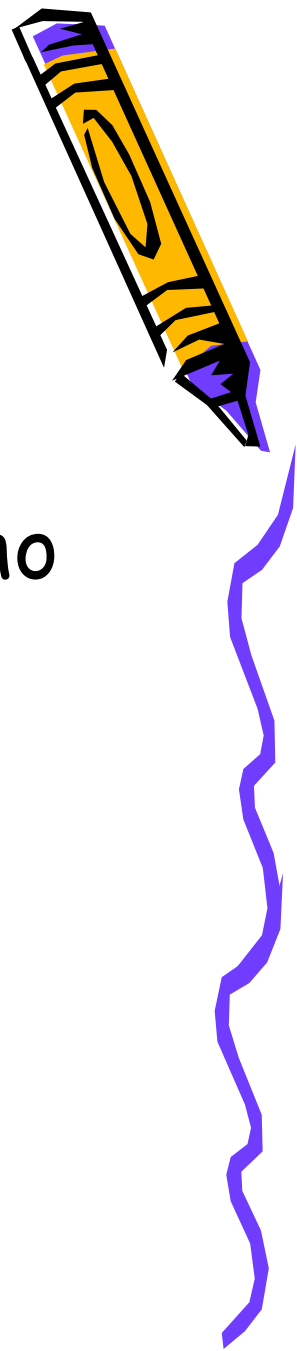


Chapter Two Overview

- Defining *Family*
- Types of Families
- Functions of Families
- Parenting Styles
- Father involvement
- Families in Transition
- Poverty and Homelessness



Family



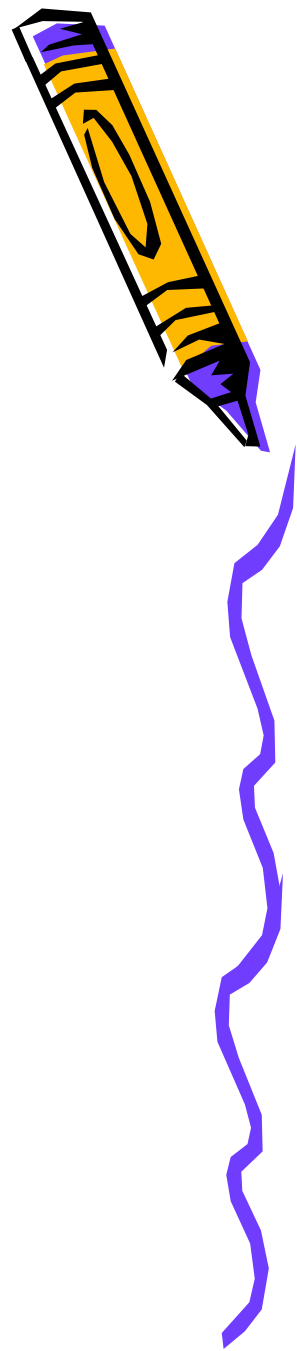
- Family: "a group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption,"
(U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)
- Socially constructed concept
(Weigel, 2008)



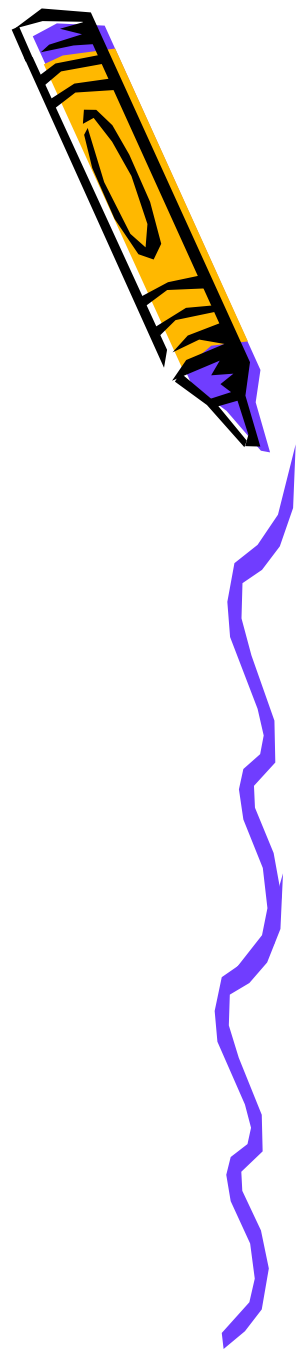
Family

- Galinsky's Stages in Family Life (1987)

1. Image making - before birth
2. Nurturing - infancy
3. Authority - child
4. Guidance - elementary
5. Interdependent - teen
6. Departure - teen, young adult



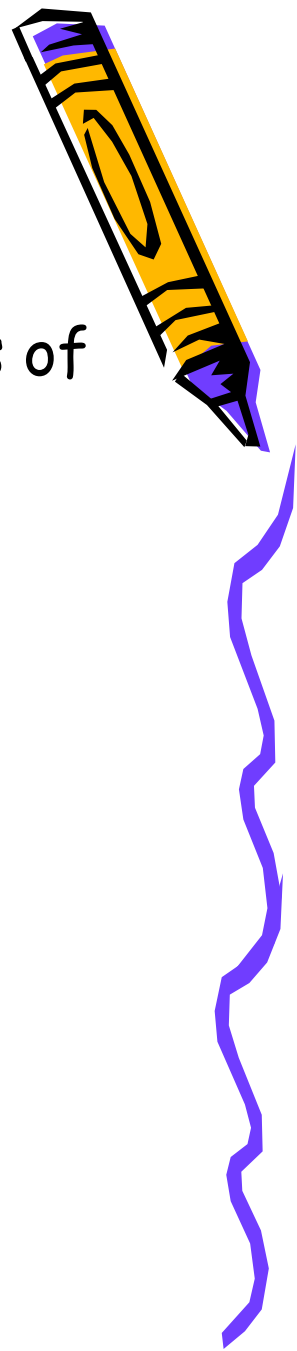
Types of Families



- Single-Parent
- Single Teenage Mother
- Two-Parent - Experiencing Homelessness
- Two-Income
- Immigrant



Diversity of Families: Insight for Teachers



- Understand that there are all different types of families
- All families need support and guidance but in different ways
 - Special needs and families from other lands
- Families that are not familiar with the school system are going to need more support to understand the school's expectations.
- Provide a link to your website for relevant information for families.

Make school routines and procedures parent friendly and easy for parents to follow.

- Never scold but gently redirect



Functions of the Family



- Nurturing
 - Guiding
 - Problem solving
 - Modeling
- (Swick, 1986)
- Basic needs: nutrition, protection, and shelter
 - Emotional needs: interaction, love, and support
- Providing
 - Socialization
 - Supporting
- (Cataldo, 1987)



Parenting Styles

Parenting Style	Characteristics
Authoritative	Democratic decision making; Guidelines and parameters; Effective communication; Problem solving; Self-discipline and responsibility
Authoritarian (might be overprotective)	Demanding parent; Absolute rules; Restrictive environment; Punitive control; Strong guidelines
Laissez-faire (might be very indulgent)	Anything goes; Neglectful parent No one cares; Withdrawal from parental responsibilities
Dysfunctional (includes authoritative, authoritarian, and laissez-faire families)	Alcohol- or drug-addicted; Neurotic or mentally ill; Abusive

Father Involvement: Historical Perspective

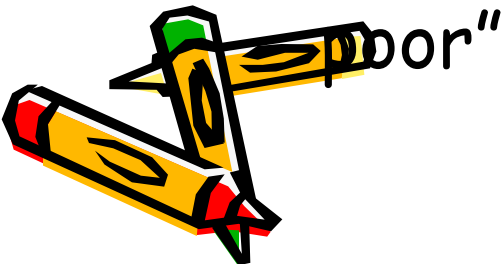
- Puritan to Industrialization
 - Breadwinner and provider of moral guidance
- 1912 The Children's Bureau published *Infant Care*
 - Geared toward mothers
 - Fathers not considered important for childrearing until after WWII
- 1940s
 - Awareness of father as gender role model
- 1960s-1980s
 - Fathers as superfluous
- 1990s
 - Resurgence of father as role model
 - National Institute for Responsible Fatherhood and Family Development, PromiseKeepers, National Center for Fatherhood, and National Fatherhood Initiative



Father Involvement



- Some negative aspects of being raised without a father...
 - "3 times more likely to fail at school, 2 to 3 times more likely to experience emotional or behavioral problems requiring psychiatric treatment... 3 times more likely to commit suicide as adolescents... 5 times more likely to be poor"



Research on Father Involvement

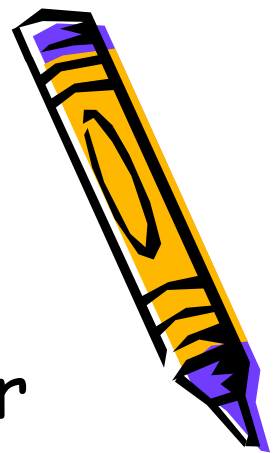
- Fathers' involvement may help offset negative effects on child development when mothers are not as supportive (Martin, Ryan, & Brooks-Gunn, 2010)
- Fathers' more physical style of interacting with children supports and adds to the nurturing and verbal style of the mother (Horn, 1997; Lamb, 1997)
- High levels of father involvement indicate positive outcomes in cognitive & socio-emotional development (Halme, Astedt-Kurk, & Tarkka, 2009)



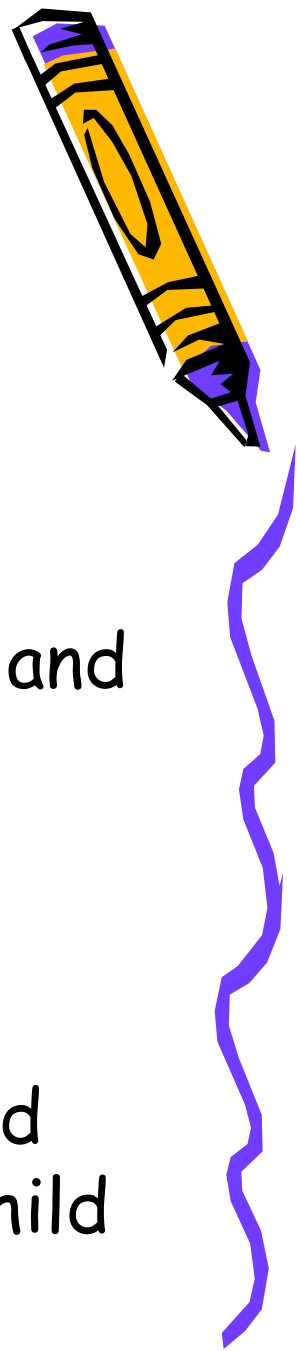
Involving Fathers...

- "Father" extends to all father figures.
- Reach out to fathers as much as mothers
- Encourage father participation in meetings and activities
- Appreciate father's contributions

- Suggestions for Fathers
 - Be there
 - Accept your Child
 - Use positive parenting
 - Share parenting
 - See fathering as worthwhile and satisfying
 - Be there for your children



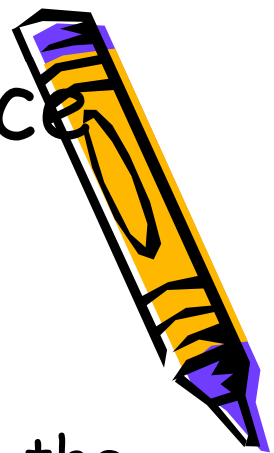
Families in Transition: Divorce



- Economic status of parents who divorce changes drastically
 - 24.6 percent of all custodial parents and their children had incomes below the poverty level in 2007
- Effects of divorce on children
 - related more to previous situation and subsequent events that affect the child than to the divorce itself



A Child's Adjustment to Divorce Depends on...

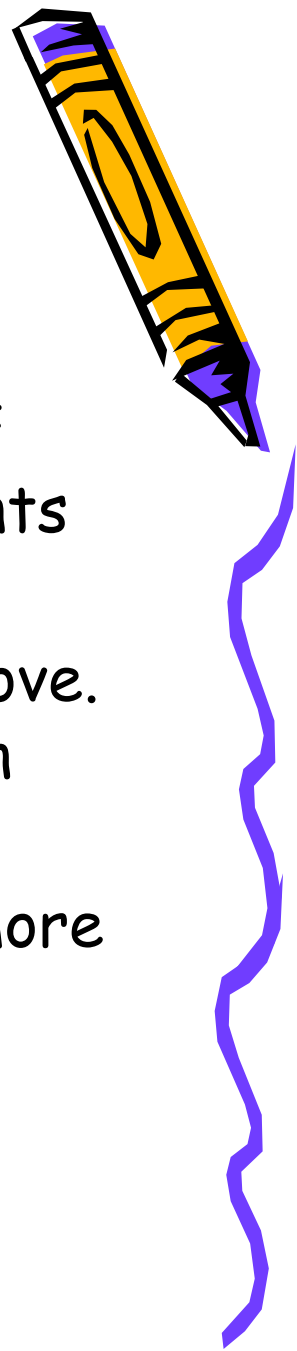


- Relationship of parents post-divorce.
- Separation from a parent who is significant to the child.
- Parenting skills and relationship of child with custodial parent.
- Relationship of children with nonresidential parent.
- Economics and finances to maintain standard of living.

(Shaw, 1992, p. 182)



Families in Transition: Divorce



- Older infants and toddlers realize that one of their parents no longer lives with them. Infants need reassurance and tender caregiving.
- Toddlers need reassurance of their parents' love. They may regress, but with support can regain development.
- Preschool and early elementary children are more likely to blame themselves. They need reassurance, support, and connection to the parent who no longer lives at home.

(Leon and Cole, 2004)



Single Parent Families



- 1860s to mid-1960s
 - No real increase in the proportion of single parent families because the growing divorce rate was offset by declining death rate
 - Most single parent homes headed by widowed mothers
 - Take in boarders, doing laundry or sewing, relying on older children to help
- 13.7 million single parent families in the US
 - 27% of single custodial mothers and their children live in poverty
 - 12.9% of single custodial fathers and their children live in poverty



Blended Families

Development of blended family (Papernow, 1993,1998).

1. Fantasy

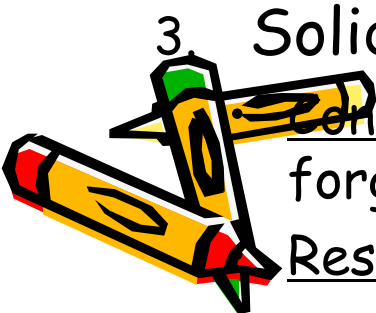
- Fantasy - parents visualize new family, kids wish for old family
- Immersion - non-biological parent is an outsider (sink/swim phase)
- Awareness - parents better understand dynamics of new family

2. Restructuring

- Mobilization - during which the airing of differences occurs
- Action - power struggles resolved and new agreements made, changes in family structure and new boundaries.

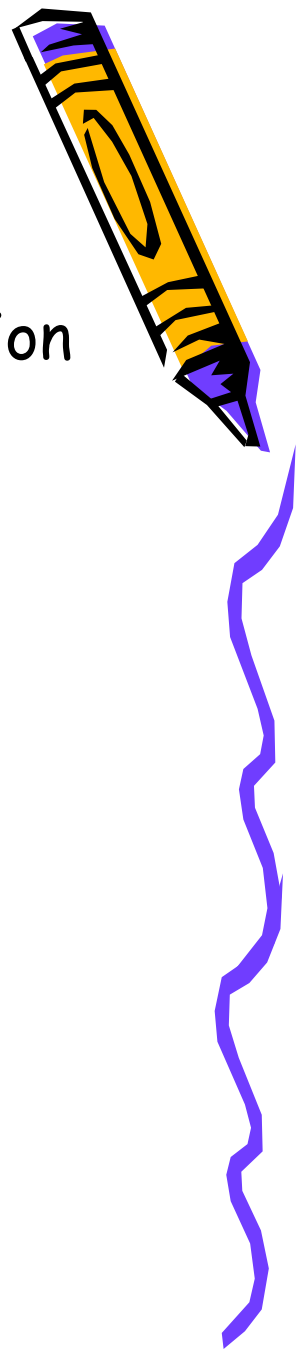
3. Solidifying

- Contact - intimacy and authenticity in real relationships are forged
- Resolution



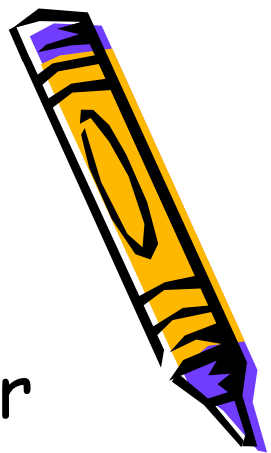
Families Headed by Grandparents

- Doubled from 2.2 million in 1970 to 4.5 million in 2000
- 3.9% of all households in US
 - 19% below poverty
- Largest numbers of children living with grandparent are Caucasian, however lower percentages
 - 2% Non-Hispanic White
 - 6% Asian
 - 8% each for Black, American Indian and Alaskan Native, and Hispanic
 - 10% for Pacific Islander



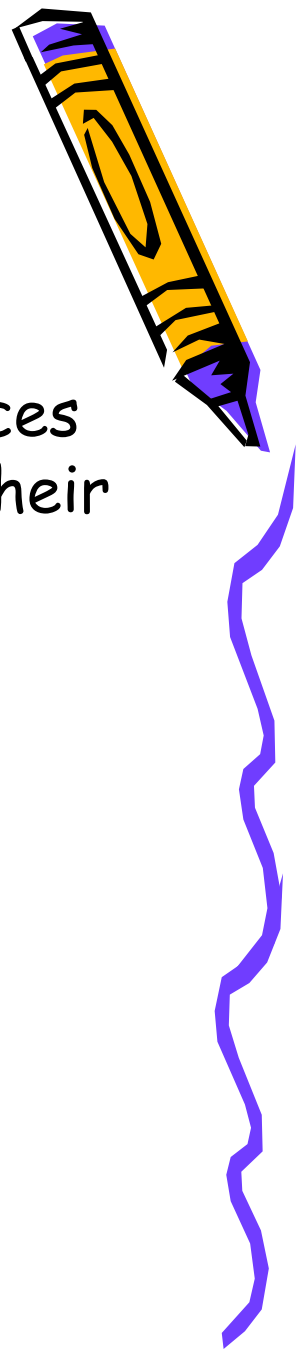
Poverty

- Defined according to income of person or family.
- Implies lack of resources relative to need
(Cancian & Reed, 2009)
- U.S.- 43.6 million people live in poverty (2009)
- U.S.- 20% of children live in poverty (2009)



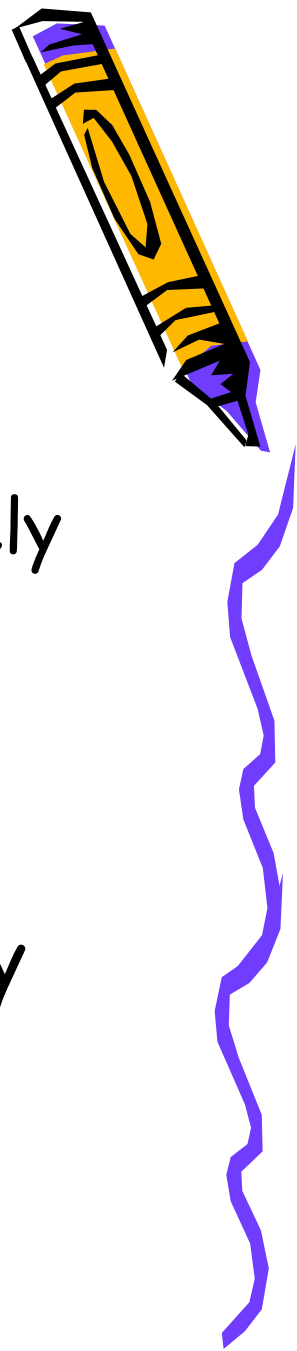
Assistance Programs

- Assistance programs “open the doors for young children to participate in experiences that will help them grow and develop as their parents struggle to find a better life by obtaining assistance”
- Ex: Non-profits
 - American Red Cross
 - Boys and Girls Club of America
 - Catholic Charities
 - Feed the Children
 - Goodwill Industries International
 - Habitat for Humanity International
 - Salvation Army
 - United Jewish Communities
 - YMCA

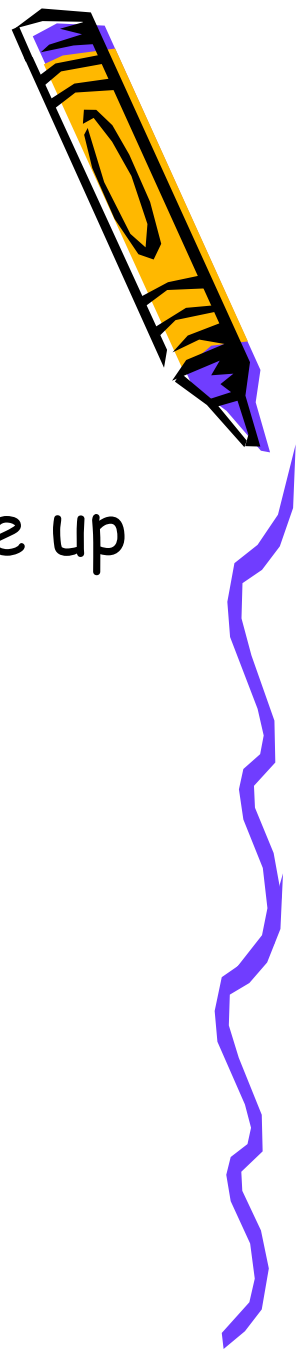


Ways to Counteract Poverty

- A decent standard of living
 - Jobs that pay enough to adequately rear children
- Flexible working conditions so children can be cared for
- An integrated network of family services
- Legal protection for children outside and inside families



Homelessness

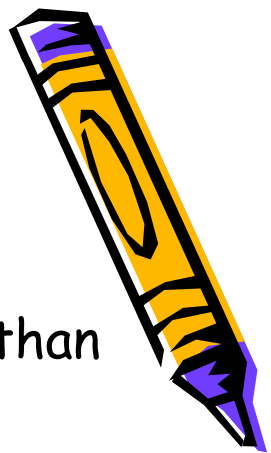


- Each year 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness, children make up 23% of the homeless population.
(National Coalition for the Homeless, 2011)
- Three main reasons for homelessness:
 - lack of affordable housing
 - poverty
 - unemployment



Homelessness

- More than just without a home
 - 38% of single mothers ever held a job for more than 6 months
 - Generally undereducated, had few job skills, probably addicted to drugs or alcohol, often victims of domestic abuse
 - (Institute for Children and Poverty, 2004)
 - Unemployed two parent families
 - Single men and women
 - Jobless people with mental illness
 - People with mental and physical disabilities
 - Homeless independent children and young adults
 - Alcoholics
 - Transients



Homelessness



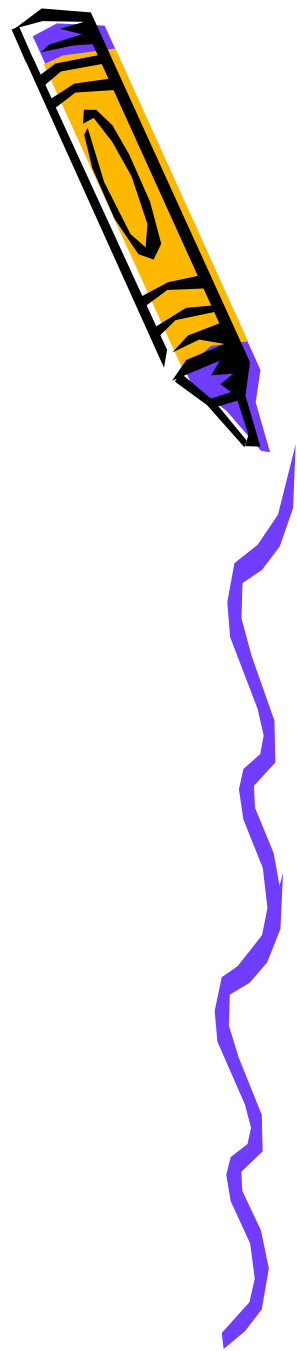
- Less than 30% of people eligible for low income housing receive it
- Only 11% of the 40% eligible for disability benefits receive them
- Only 37% receive food stamps although most qualify
- Most are eligible for welfare benefits, but only 52% receive them

(National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty, 2002)



Homeless Children

- Living with someone who cannot afford or who has lost their home
 - Friend, relative, or someone else
- Staying in a motel, hotel, or emergency shelter



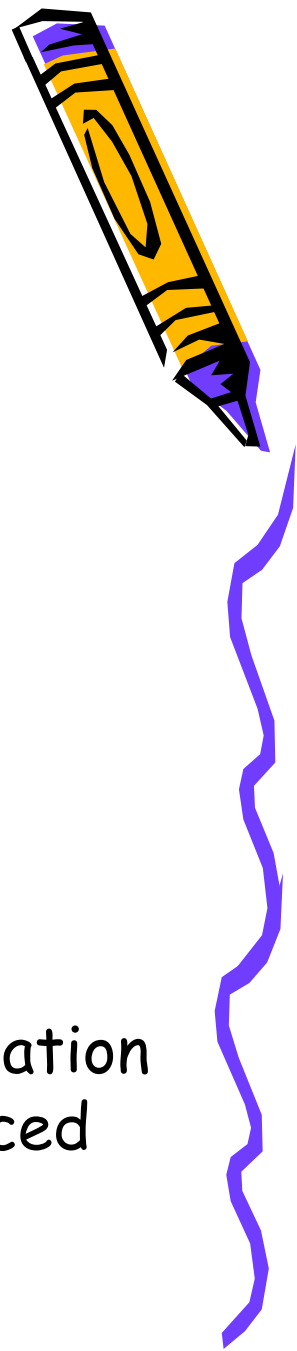
Homeless Children



- Concerns
 - Lack the security of living in a stable environment
 - Higher risk of nutritional deficiency and other health problems, including delayed immunization, poor iron levels, and developmental difficulties.
 - May suffer from learning difficulties, speech delays, behavioral problems, depression and anxiety, short attention span, aggression, and withdrawal



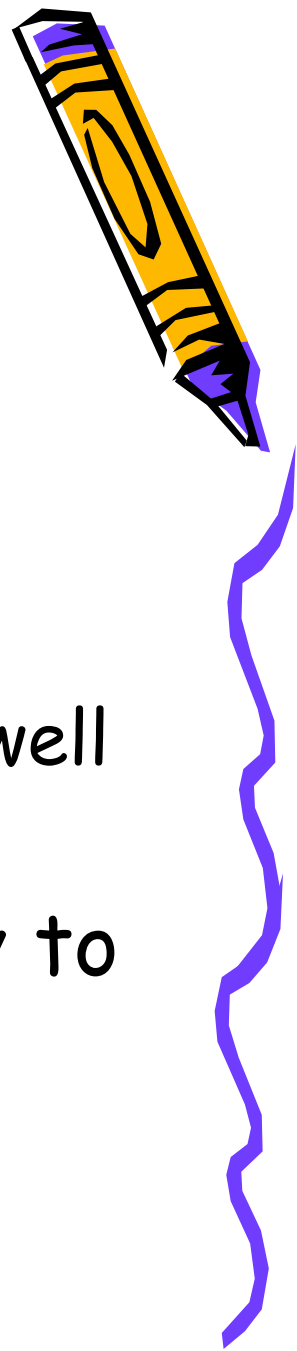
Homeless Children



- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act
 - Ensures homeless children have access to education
 - State responsibility
- Must receive same educational services available to other children
 - Head Start, Individuals with Disabilities Education and Child Find for early identification of needs, Title I, and free and reduced priced lunches



Summary



- Diverse families include
 - Traditional two parent homes, single parent, divorced, blended families, homeless, and immigrant families as well as families living in poverty
- All families have the responsibility to provide for their children

